

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior listings and versions of the claims in the present application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Canceled).

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): A bag formed of a sheet material comprising:

a plastically deformable wire-like member attached along a lateral edge thereof, the lateral edge having a hem seal formed by heat sealing, and the wire-like member being disposed inside ~~[[the]]~~ a fused joint of the folded back hem seal with a non-fused portion left between the wire-like member and ~~[[the]]~~ a surrounding fused portion of the hem seal, wherein said vertical wire-like member is disposed inside said folded back hem seal joint so as to leave a space from a fused portion of said joint.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The bag according to claim ~~[[1]]~~ 2, wherein the joint has formed therein a tubular holder for holding a wire-like member, and the wire-like member is inserted in the holder.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): A gusset bag comprising a pair of main faces and a pair of inward folding side faces and being adapted to be opened at the top for taking out the contents while self-standing, wherein a deformable vertical wire-like member is vertically attached along each lateral edge that is an intersection of adjacent main and side faces over a length from an output opening side portion to a body portion of the gusset bag.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): The gusset bag according to claim 4, wherein the vertical wire-like member is attached to each of the side faces along each lateral edge, and a lateral wire-like member is laterally attached to each of the side faces to substantially form the shape of an inverted angular "U" together with the pair of the vertical wire-like members.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): The gusset bag according to claim 4, wherein at least one of the main faces is provided with a cutting guide line along which an upper part of the gusset bag is adapted to be cut off, the cutting guide line intersecting with the vertical wire-like members, and the vertical wire-like members are adapted to be cut off along the cutting guide line.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): The gusset bag according to claim 4, wherein a projection for creating a level difference is provided across the centerline of each of the side faces below an upper end output opening.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): The gusset bag according to claim 4, wherein each of the side faces has a vertical fin-like rib projecting on the outer side thereof along the centerline thereof, the rib being formed by folding a narrow longitudinal area symmetric about the center line to make a mountain fold on the outer surface of the side face along the centerline and adhering the facing inner sides of the folded narrow area.

Claims 9-14 (Canceled).

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): The bag according to claim [[1]] 2, wherein the wire-like member is covered with a resin.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): A detergent package comprising a powdered or granular detergent packed in the bag ~~or the gusset bag~~ according to claim ~~[[1]]~~ 2.

Claim 17 (New): A bag formed of a sheet material comprising a plastically deformable wirelike member attached along a lateral edge thereof, the wire-like member being disposed inside a fused joint of a folded back hem seal formed along the lateral edge; and

a rectangular projection which extends along side faces of said bag for maintaining a rectangular shape of said bag upon being open.